

Chapter 2



*Mahogany
Canyon in the
High Rock
Canyon
Wilderness*

Management Plan

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains objectives and decisions for managing the natural, physical and cultural resources described in the Act and those located in parts of the planning area not included in the National Conservation Area or designated Wilderness Areas. Background information is provided for each of these resources to establish points of reference for the decisions that follow.

2.2 PROGRAM-SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND DECISIONS

2.2.1 LAND HEALTH STANDARDS

Land Health Standards are expressions of physical and biological condition or degree of function required for sustainable environmental health. These standards engender measurements that describe on-the-ground conditions in relation to the four fundamentals of healthy, properly functioning ecosystems that are identified at 43 CFR § 4180. These fundamentals are:

- Watersheds in properly functioning physical condition; soil and plant conditions support infiltration, soil moisture storage, and the release of water that is in balance with climate and landform and maintain or improve water quality, water quantity, and timing and duration of flow. Ecological processes, including the hydrologic cycle, nutrient cycle, and energy flow, are maintained in order to support healthy biotic populations and communities.
- Water quality complies with State water quality standards and achieves BLM management objectives.
- Habitats are restored or maintained for listed, proposed, candidate and other special status species.

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Standards are achieved through the use of guidelines developed for specific programs and uses. Because the Standards were originally applied to livestock grazing, guidelines for livestock grazing (Appendix B) will continue to apply to that use. Guidelines for other uses and programs will be implemented as part of the adaptive management process (see Chapter 3). Currently existing guidelines for resources and programs will be incorporated during RMP implementation and new guidelines will be developed where none exist. The participation of the public, State, Tribal and local governments, and other federal agencies will be used during the adoption and development of guidelines.



*View from
Soldier
Meadows hot
spring pool*

Objective

To manage public lands to meet the fundamentals of land health.

Management

LHS-1: Land Health Standards developed with the assistance of the two Resource Advisory Councils will apply to all uses and programs as indicated in Table 2-1 and Map 2-1. The complete text of the standards is in Appendix B.

Table 2-1. Land Health Standards

Standards	Acres
Northwestern Nevada-Sierra Front Area	1,018,751
Northeastern California	186,289

Note: There are no specific soils objectives or decisions in the RMP. The soils requirements for Land Health Standards and the objectives and decisions related to vegetation provide adequate guidance for the health of soil related resources.